

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed January 31, 2008, claims 1 – 17 were rejected. In response, Applicants propose amending claims 1 and 6 and adding new claims 18 and 19. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered to put the claims in condition for allowance or to put the claims in better condition for appeal. Applicants hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims, the added claims, and the below-provided remarks.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract has been replaced with a new abstract that meets the requirements of an abstract. The abstract is presented on a separate page.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayuki (JP 05-265866, hereinafter Takayuki) in view of Furuhashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,800,894). However, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Takayuki in view of Furuhashi for the reasons provided below.

Claims 1 and 6

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to particularly point out “the first memory means comprises multiple data sectors” and “the test memory area comprises data sector-specific test memory areas within each of the multiple data sectors.” Support for this amendment is found in Applicants’ specification at, for example, paragraph [0033] and Fig. 3. Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the limitation related to the ambient parameter.

Applicants assert that neither Takayuki nor Furuhashi teach “the first memory means comprises multiple data sectors” and “the test memory area comprises data sector-specific test memory areas within each of the multiple data sectors” as recited in amended claims 1 and 6. Because neither Takayuki nor Furuhashi teach “the first memory means comprises multiple data sectors” and “the test memory area comprises data sector-specific test memory areas within each of the multiple data sectors,” Applicants assert that amended claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Takayuki in view of Furuhashi.

Dependent claims 2 – 5 and 7 – 17

Claims 2 – 5, 12, 14, and 15 are dependent on claim 1 and claims 7 – 11, 13, 16, and 17 are dependent on claim 6. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable at least based on an allowable base claims.

New Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 recite that “the data sector-specific test memory areas are located in an area of each data sector that is designated for access control.” Support for claims 18 and 19 is found in Applicants’ specification at, for example, paragraph [0033] and Fig. 3. Applicants have found no such teaching in Takayuki or Furuhashi.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amended claims, the new claims, and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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